

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01635 032241Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 OES-07 SP-02 NSC-05
NASA-01 DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
INR-10 NSAE-00 SOE-02 SS-15 NRC-05 /108 W
-----089894 041810Z /64

R 032202Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6878

CONFIDENTIAL OTTAWA 01635

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UN, CA
SUBJECT: LEGAL ASPECTS OF COSMOS 954

REF: STATE 77342

1. SCICOUNS REQUESTED COPY OF LATEST SOVIET NOTE ON COSMOS 954 FROM ERIK WANG (EXTAFF, LEGAL OPERATIONS DIVISION), IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTEL.
2. A LETTER FROM WANG IN REPLY TO THIS REQUEST WAS DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY ON 3 APRIL 1978. TEXT OF LETTER AS FOLLOWS:
3. BEGIN TEXT: IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST, I ATTACH HERewith A COPY OF A NOTE DATED MARCH 21 ("UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION") WHICH WE RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIET EMBASSY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE COSMOS 954 SATELLITE.
4. EARLIER NOTES BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT (EXTAFF) AND THE EMBASSY (U.S.S.R.) HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC BUT THE MARCH 21 NOTE HAS NOT YET BEEN PLACED IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. I WOULD ACCORDINGLY BE GRATEFUL IF YOUR AUTHORITIES WOULD CONSIDER IT AS CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE."
(SIGNED ERIK WANG.) END TEXT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01635 032241Z

5. THE TEXT OF THE SOVIET NOTE ("UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION") IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTES OF FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 3, 1978.

6. THE SOVIET SIDE TAKES NOTE OF THE INFORMATION TRANSMITTED TO IT ABOUT 11 OBJECTS DISCOVERED ON THE TERRITORY OF CANADA WHICH ARE BELIEVED BY THE CANADIAN SIDE TO BE DISINTEGRATED PARTS OF THE COSMOS-954 SATELLITE, AND IS GRATEFUL TO THE CANADIAN SIDE FOR THIS INFORMATION. THE EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO STATE ONCE AGAIN THAT THOSE OBJECTS AS SUCH DO NOT PRESENT INTEREST TO THE SOVIET SIDE AND ACCORDINGLY THE CANADIAN SIDE CAN DEAL WITH THEM AT ITS OWN DISCRETION.

7. IN CONNECTION WITH THE REQUEST MADE BY THE CANADIAN SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE POWER UNIT WHICH WAS ON BOARD THE COSMOS-954 SATELLITE, THE EMBASSY WOULD REMIND THAT THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE SATELLITE WAS ALREADY MADE AVAILABLE WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE SOVIET SIDE, IS SUFFICIENT TO ORGANIZE AND CARRY OUT EFFECTIVE SEARCH FOR POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS CESSATION OF EXISTENCE OVER CANADIAN TERRITORY. HOWEVER, TRYING TO MEET THE WISHES OF THE CANADIAN SIDE AND RENDER IT REAL ASSISTANCE THE SOVIET SIDE COMMUNICATES THE FOLLOWING.

8. THE POWER UNIT OF THE COSMOS-954 SATELLITE WAS AN ORDINARY NUCLEAR REACTOR WORKING ON URANIUM ENRICHED WITH ISOTOPE OF URANIUM-235. FUEL DECAY DATA ARE THE USUAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01635 032241Z

ONES FOR A REACTOR THAT CEASED ITS WORK. THE REACTOR'S ACTIVE ZONE WAS A SET OF HEAT-EMITTING ELEMENTS WITH A BERILLIUM REFLECTOR. THE REACTOR'S DESIGN PROVIDED FOR DESTRUCTION OF THE REFLECTOR AT THE ENTRY INTO DENSE LAYERS OF THE ATMOSPHERE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE REACTOR'S ACTIVE ZONE.

9. THE EMBASSY REAFFIRMS THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS GUIDED IN ALL QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE CESSATION OF EXISTENCE OF THE COSMOS-954 SATELLITE BY THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS REGULATING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE OUTER SPACE. IF THE CANADIAN SIDE HAS INTENTION TO PRESENT A CLAIM OF COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED AS A RESULT OF THE CESSATION OF EXISTENCE OF THE COSMOS-954 SATELLITE OVER THE NORTHERN PART OF CANADA, THE SOVIET SIDE, AS A PARTY TO THE 1972 CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY COSMIC OBJECTS, WILL CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF SUCH DAMAGE IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THAT CONVENTION. COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. OTTAWA, MARCH 21, 1978. END TEXT.

10. NOTE: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE THIS WEEKEND QUOTED DANSON,

GOC DEFENSE MINISTER, AS SAYING THAT CANADIAN COSTS FOR SEARCH AND RECOVERY HAVE NOW REACHED \$6 MILLION. IT IS OPINION OF EMBASSY THAT IF U.S. COSTS WERE TO BE ADDED, IT WOULD MAKE POSSIBILITY OF CANADA RECOVERING COSTS FROM U.S.S.R. EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. SOVIETS COULD CLAIM THEY OFFERED TO HELP AND WERE NOT ASKED, THUS U.S. COSTS WERE UNJUSTIFIED. PLACKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE LAW, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES, SPACE TECHNOLOGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA01635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780145-0658
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780499/aaaadgkr.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b3e580b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 77342
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3092973
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEGAL ASPECTS OF COSMOS 954
TAGS: TSPA, PDIP, CA, UR, US, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b3e580b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014